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ABSTRACT

Minnesota plays an integral role in the worldwide increase in the exchange of goods, services, and ideas. It is imperative that the state's citizens be able to relate to an increasingly interrelated world and to gain the skills, attitudes, and knowledge needed to participate intelligently in such exchanges. Educating to these ends is essential. International/global education is the carefully designed elementary and secondary program that helps students develop in such a way as to contribute effectively to an interdependent world. Students must learn a sense of responsibility for the needs of all people and a commitment to the just and peaceful resolution of global issues. Minnesota's global education efforts seek to enable citizens to participate more actively at local, state, national, and international levels. The task of global education becomes more difficult each year, as technological developments yield an ever expanding profusion of data and problems. The survival of "Spaceship Earth" and the quality of life of its inhabitants will depend on the extent to which young people develop the ability to think, feel, and act from a global perspective. Teachers can instill in students an appreciation of the global nature of issues that affect their lives and the interrelationships that bind them to other regions and peoples. Educators must prepare the young to meet the responsibilities and demands of an interdependent and complex world. (LBG)

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Global Education: Educating for Our Common Future

Presentation to

The Third Annual Conference of

The American Forum for Global Education

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Global Education: Educating for Our Common Future

Minnesota plays an integral role in the worldwide increase in the exchange of goods, services, and ideas. It is imperative that our citizens be able to relate to an increasingly interrelated world and gain the skills, attitudes, and knowledge needed to participate intelligently in these exchanges. Educating to these ends is essential. The Minnesota in the World Task Force recommended that by the year 2000 all students be involved in K-12 global education programs that have been designed and implemented prior to the Global Education Decade (1990-2000). During this decade, these programs will be evaluated and strengthened to reflect the needs of citizenship in the 21st century.

International/global education is the carefully designed elementary and secondary program that helps students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute effectively in an interdependent world characterized by diversity and limited and unequally distributed natural resources. An international or global perspective means viewing the world and its people with understanding and concern. Understanding required knowledge of, and respect for, differences and similarities of the world's people, the process of development, and how goods, services, and ideas are exchanged. Concern necessitates assuming responsibility for the needs of all people and commitment to finding just and peaceful resolution to global issues. The desired outcome of

global education in Minnesota is to enable citizens in our democracy to participate more actively at local, state, national and international levels.

Preparing students to live effectively and responsibly in their communities, their nation, and the world is a critically important function of social education. This task becomes more difficult each year, as new developments in science and technology yield an ever-expanding profusion of data and problems at the same time that new developments in communication and transportation are causing the world to "shrink."

Today's students will live most of their lives in the 21st century, in an increasingly interdependent world. The very survival of "Spaceship Earth," and certainly the quality of life experience by its inhabitants, will depend on the extent to which our young people develop the ability to think, feel, and act from a perspective that is global rather than narrowly personal, national, and regional.

Teachers can play an important role in instilling such a perspective by helping students develop an appreciation for the global nature of most of the issues that affect their lives and an understanding of the interrelationships that bind us inextricably to other regions and peoples.

Rapid changes in communication, transportation, and weapons technologies have made our planet seem a very small one indeed.

Countries and cultures can no longer exist in isolation. The actions of any one of them impinge on others, often very swiftly. We live, like it or not, in an era of global interdependence, and we must prepare our young people to meet the responsibilities and to cope with the demands that will be thrust upon them by this increasingly interdependent and complex world.